

Continuing the Management Conference

Implementing the CCMP is the combined responsibility of the Management Conference partners. Through their ongoing programs and day-to-day operations, and through federal, state, local, and private LIS funding initiatives and activities, CCMP priorities are assessed, implemented, and reported.

OVERALL CCMP STRATEGY:

An essential element of the Long Island Sound Study strategy to implement the CCMP was to continue the Management Conference partnership in carrying out the plan to restore and protect the Sound. The states and EPA signed LIS Agreements in 1994, 1996, 2003 and an Action Agenda in 2011. These commit EPA and the states to the Management Conference partnership as the primary means of implementing the CCMP. Most of the original thirteen actions in this section of the CCMP continue to be key to the viability of the LISS partnership. Federal legislation in 1990 created the EPA Long Island Sound Office to bridge the bi-state, multi-agency, public/private efforts to restore and protect the Sound. The Management Conference began a process to revise the 1994 CCMP in 2013 and it proceeded through 2014. A series of public meetings were held in New York and Connecticut to gather suggestions and comments on the Plan. As of this writing, the response to public comments is under way.

LIS 2003 AGREEMENT GOAL:

The 2003 Agreement Goals under this heading are replaced by the 2011-2013 Action Agenda.

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS/RESULTS/TRENDS:

2014 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Long Island Sound is included in EPA's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan under Goal 2, Protecting America's Waters. The Plan may be viewed, ordered or downloaded at EPA's website:
<http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan.html>.
- Congress appropriated \$4.5 million for the LISS in 2014 under the Environmental Programs and Management appropriation. As of this writing the FY2015 EPA budget for Long Island Sound is \$4,540,000.
- The Management Committee continued to revise the 1994 CCMP during 2014. A Core Team is leading the effort, which met a number of times in 2014.

SUMMARY OF CCMP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

CONTINUING THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

M-1. Supporting Implementation (CCMP Table 50, P. 141)

Key Elements: The CCMP committed the LISS to formally extend the Management Conference to guide CCMP implementation, and to continue its Citizens Advisory Committee as an integral part of the conference. The plan also called for the EPA LISO to continue and expand its efforts to coordinate among Management Conference participants in support of CCMP implementation by providing funding and staffing, conducting education, outreach, monitoring, and data management, and ensuring consistency with other federal and state goals and policies.

2014 Description	2015 Planned Action
1 Congress continued to fund the LISS in FY2014 under Clean Water Act Sections 119 and 320. The LISS budget in 2014 was \$4,551,200.	The FY2015 Planning Target for LIS is \$4.5 million.
2 Long Island Sound is an objective in EPA's Strategic Plan for 2014-2018 under Goal 2, Restore America's Waters. Four strategic measures with targets for Long Island Sound include: 1) reduction of point source nitrogen loads to the Sound; 2) reduction in the size of the hypoxic area in the Sound; 3) protection and restoration of coastal habitat; and 4) reopening of river corridors to diadromous fish passage. EPA's Strategic Plan is available at: http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan.html	Long Island Sound is expected to continue as a strategic objective.
3 The Management Committee met in January, April, July, and October.	The Committee will continue to meet in 2015 to address issues of concern to LIS.
4 The Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) met in April, July, and November.	Continue STAC meetings in 2015 and continue to develop and refine LIS research needs based on extant scientific research.
5 The Citizens Advisory Committee met in March, June, September, and December.	The CAC will continue to increase its representation and advocate for the full \$40 million appropriation for the LISS and \$25 million for the LIS Stewardship initiative.
6 The EPA Long Island Sound Office (LISO) continued to coordinate the work of the Management Committee, the STAC, and CAC and continued to support implementation efforts of LISS work groups -- the Nutrients Work Group, Nonpoint Source Work Group, the Connecticut River Work Group, the Habitat Restoration Team, Implementation Team, the Stewardship Work Group, and the Sentinel Monitoring Work Group. The LISO continued coordination of the Management Conference, development of the annual budget and National Estuary Program (NEP) work plan, and the LISS scientific research agenda.	The LISO will continue to support implementation of the CCMP and the Management Conference partners.
7 The Management Committee continued work to revise the 1994 CCMP in 2014. A core team was formed of accountable parnters to develop a work plan to carry out the revision process. The core team met a number of times and worked with a contractor supporting this effort.	The core team will continue to meet and work on CCMP revision in 2015 until it is completed.

2014 Description	2015 Planned Action
<p>8 In 2014 twenty-two grants totaling \$1.3 million were awarded to state and local government and community groups in New York and Connecticut under the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The projects will open up 12.4 miles of river for passage of native fish and restore 80 acres of coastal habitat, including intertidal marsh, coastal forest, grasslands and freshwater wetlands. More than 70,000 citizens will be reached by environmental and conservation programs supported by the grants. Nearly 2.9 million gallons of water pollution will be treated through the delivery of water quality improvement projects. The grants will be leveraged by \$1.4 million from the grantees themselves, resulting in \$2.7 million in funding for on-the-ground, hands-on conservation projects in both states. The projects aim to advance the priorities of the CCMP.</p>	<p>The Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2015 will continue to reflect the priorities and action items of the new CCMP.</p>
<p>9 In 2014, NEIWPCC's Communications Coordinator organized a LISS working group to develop a "microsite" on climate change in the LISS website. The group held monthly telephone calls. The purpose of the microsite is to educate the public about local research and monitoring efforts being done on Climate Change, including work being performed by the Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change work group; provide municipalities with links on where to go to learn about climate change adaptation efforts; and links to resources for educators to assist them on how to teach about climate change. The coordinator also worked with the web developer on creating a design for the page.</p>	<p>The group will work to develop content for the microsite with an aim to launch it in 2015.</p>
<p>10 NEIWPCC's Information Officer began working with an art director to develop a design for the new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.</p>	<p>Finalize the design, layout the report, and print and distribute copies of the report. In addition, NEIWPCC's Information Officer will work with the art director to create a brochure that will highlight the main points of the CCMP.</p>
<p>11 [update] In 2014, NYSDEC hosted a LIS Tidal Wetlands Loss Workshop for wetland researchers, managers, regulators, and restoration ecologists. The two day workshop attracted over 60 people and developed a list of recommendations for the future. These recommendations have been incorporated into the newly revised CCMP.</p>	<p>Habitat Restoration Work Group work with partners on CCMP Action Plans.</p>